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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Intelligence Information Handling Committee  
WASHINGTON, DC 20505

5 OCT 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Steve Hurlehy  
PPCA, Defense Mapping Agency

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Vice Chairman, Intelligence Information  
Handling Committee

SUBJECT: IHC Video Disc Activities

1. This memorandum is submitted in response to a 3 October telephone conversation between Mr. Charles Renner of DMA and [REDACTED] of my staff regarding IHC involvement with contractors who have bid on DMA's video disc mapping RFP. It identifies the sequence of events, from the IHC's perspective, and the actions taken by IHC regarding contractor involvement while IHC was assisting DMA in both the identification of video disc mapping requirements and the drafting of DMA's RFP.

2. In the summer of 1983, the IHC staff became interested in and involved with government efforts in the field of video disc technology and its applications. By the fall, it became evident to the IHC that there was great potential for the applications of this technology to the entire Intelligence Community. Since products had already been generated for FORSCOM and since the NSC had expressed a need for some video disc maps, the IHC staff began working with DMA and the NSC to identify their specific requirements. As work progressed, other members of the Intelligence Community became interested in the use of this technology and it was agreed to incorporate their needs with those of the NSC.

3. As the group researched the capabilities of this technology, it became very evident that there was a wide variance in the quality of video disc products and applications. Since the group was concerned with video disc based mapping, the IHC solicited the assistance of BDM Corporation and Dr. Steve Levin of Interactive Television Company to focus on the areas of interest to the Intelligence Community.

4. The IHC used BDM to perform the primary research on video disc mapping and to write a set of standards which would be used as "Intelligence Community" standards. And it was through BDM that the IHC became aware of MICROFIX, the video disc mapping system produced by Perceptronics Inc. for FORSCOM. As a result, the IHC held several meetings with Perceptronics to learn how the MICROFIX was developed and how maps were imaged for the system.

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5. In addition, the IHC hired Dr. Steve Levin of Interactive Television Co. as a consultant on a personal basis because of his company's previous work on an Intelligence Community video disc mapping system sponsored by the COINS PMO. He was tasked to identify the various technical considerations involved in video disc production and issues involved in attempting to draft Intelligence Community standards in relation thereto. Dr. Levin produced a draft report, dated 1 March 1984, titled "Procedures and Standards for the Production of Video Disc Maps and Databases" (attached). It was presented to the IHC's Video Disc Working Group later in March. It was at about this time that a decision was reached that DMA would embark on a video disc production program in support of NSC requirements. Dr. Levin was then asked by the IHC if his company was a potential bidder on the proposed DMA contract. When he replied in the affirmative, the IHC's relationship with Dr. Levin as a consultant was terminated in order to permit the IHC staff to participate in the development of the RFP, without any question subsequently arising as to the propriety of Dr. Levin's company, Interactive Television, being considered as a bidder in the DMA contract. It should be further noted that Dr. Levin's report is titled somewhat incorrectly. It is, in reality, a technical presentation on video disc production procedures and issues. It identifies areas where the Intelligence Community must make decisions to produce video discs appropriate to their specific needs. It is in no way tailored to unique capabilities of Dr. Levin's or anyone else's company.

6. At the same time, the IHC also contacted BDM to ensure that BDM's efforts at producing video disc standards for the IHC would not cause any problems concerning government improprieties. The IHC was concerned because it wanted to tailor the standards after the DMA RFP. The IHC received written assurances from BDM that they would not be bidding on DMA's RFP. (This letter was previously provided to DMA.) As such, BDM continued to work on producing the standards and was tasked by the IHC to provide technical advice on the structuring of the proposed DMA RFP.

7. In summary, the IHC has been extremely careful to eliminate any perception of impropriety regarding contractor involvement during the entire DMA video disc effort. Even though Dr. Levin was initially involved with identifying the technical aspects of this technology, he has not been involved in the government's decisions on the contents of DMA's RFP. Neither has he had any contact with the IHC since March 1984. In this regard, I believe your concerns about the existence of any impropriety in considering Interactive Television's bid in response to the DMA RFP are unfounded. //

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Attachment: a/s

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